REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 1, 2004. Claims 1-5, 11-15 and 19-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 19, and 22 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 2, 3, 5, 12, 13, and 15 have been amended as to matters of form only. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by at least these latter changes. Claims 1, 11, and 19 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-5, 11-15, and 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,313,812 (*Nagano et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,594,509 (*Florin et al.*), and also were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Florin et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,351 (*Hahm*).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 11, and 19 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a control system that includes a control apparatus adapted to receive an operation panel for operating a controlled apparatus from the controlled apparatus, and to display the operation panel on a display unit. The control system also includes an operation apparatus having a first operation unit for operating the operation panel and a second operation unit for operating a specific function of the controlled apparatus. The control apparatus includes a receiving unit adapted to receive a control signal from the operation apparatus, and a control unit

adapted to determine whether or not to transmit a command for operating the specific function from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus. The control unit determines, according to the control signal, whether the first operation unit or the second operation is being operated, and transmits the command from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus if it determined that the second operation is being operated.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is that the control unit determines, according to the control signal, whether the first operation unit or the second operation is being operated, and transmits the command from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus if it determined that the second operation is being operated.

The rejection of Claim 1 as being unpatentable over *Nagano et al.* in view of *Florin et al.* will be discussed first.

Nagano et al. relates to a control system for electronic equipment comprising, for example, a plurality of audio/visual equipment connected so as to be controlled by one controller. The Office Action at page 3 concedes that the *Nagano et al.* fails to disclose an operation apparatus having a second operation unit for operating a specific function of the controlled apparatus. Therefore, *Nagano et al.* also fails to teach or suggest a control unit determining, according to the control signal, whether the first operation unit or the second operation is being operated, and transmitting the command from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus if it determined that the second operation is being operated, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Nagano et al.*, taken alone.

Florin et al. is cited in the Office Action as remedying the deficiency of *Nagano et al.* as teaching an operation apparatus having a second operation unit. *Florin et al.* relates to a method and apparatus for an audio-visual interface for the display of multiple levels of information on a display. *Florin et al.* discusses an AV transceiver 54 which selectively supplies a TV input 50 and inputs from AV equipment 56-57 to a TV apparatus 58 (Figs. 1-2). The transceiver 54 can be operated by a remote control device 60 (column 8, lines 42 and 43) which includes menu keys, cursor control keys, numerical keys and AV control keys (column 11, line 44 et seq.). *Florin et al.* depicts in Fig. 36 that when a controlled apparatus is selected by operating a cursor key on a menu panel 420, a display screen is switched over to a screen of the selected controlled apparatus so that a key operation of the controlled apparatus can be entered (column 21, line 56, to column 22, line 29).

However, Applicants have found nothing in *Florin et al.* that would teach or suggest a control unit determining, according to the control signal, whether the first operation unit or the second operation is being operated, and transmitting the command from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus if it determined that the second operation is being operated, as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants therefore submit that a combination of *Nagano et al.* and *Florin et al.*, assuming such combination would even be permissible, also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the *Nagano et al.* and *Florin et al.*, whether considered separately or in combination.

The rejection of Claim 1 as being unpatentable over *Florin et al.* in view of *Hahm* will now be discussed.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that *Florin et al.* fails to teach or suggest the features of Claim 1.

Hahm relates to a remote control method and a system therefor, integrating and controlling plural controlled apparatuses. However, nothing has been found in *Hahm* that would teach or suggest a control unit determining, according to the control signal, whether the first operation unit or the second operation is being operated, and transmitting the command from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus if it determined that the second operation is being operated, as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants therefore submit that a combination of *Florin et al.* and *Hahm* assuming such combination would even be permissible, also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the *Florin et al.* and *Hahm*, whether considered separately or in combination.

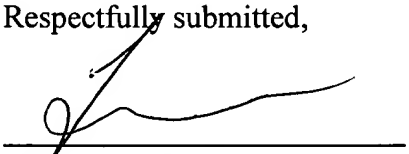
Independent Claims 11 and 19 are apparatus and method claims respectively and include features substantially similar to those of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 11 and 19 are believed to be patentable over the respective combinations of references discussed above, for reasons substantially the same as those discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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